

Appl. No. 10/687,243

Docket No. 58085-010202

Amdt. dated December 3, 2004

Reply to Office action of August 6, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of managing the loading ~~by~~ of patrons ~~of~~ to multiple an attractions in an entertainment environment wherein ~~different~~ patrons are permitted access to the attraction on at least two bases, ~~firstly, the first being~~ a first-in first-out basis, and ~~secondly, the second being~~ on a priority basis established by a prior allocation of a time of entry into said space to the attraction, comprising:

- a. developing a hierarchy ~~for~~ of patrons using the priority basis;
- b. ~~permitting different patrons in the hierarchy access to a first attraction;~~
- eb. permitting a priority request for an allocation of a time of entry into said space on the first attraction including the steps of:
 - i. receiving an input from a remote location, the input being communicated to a central computer, for the central computer regulating the a lead number of patrons allowed to enter the first attraction;
 - ii. allocating available return times in relation to a hierarchy level of a patron in the hierarchy;
 - iii. permitting the patron to remotely receive ing of a response remotely about that includes the available return times for the first attraction; and,
 - iv. permitting the patrons to effect ~~a choice of a selected a available return time from the available return times;~~ and
- dc. employing an operation to provide the patrons in the hierarchy access to the first attraction, the operation providing priority access to the patron having the return time, the operation providing first-in first-out access to any patron not having an allocated return time.

2. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hierarchy is determined on the basis of ~~these patrons~~ remotely located away from the entertainment environment when making at the priority request and these patrons located at the entertainment environment when making the priority request.

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3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hierarchy is determined on the basis of these patrons remotely located away from the entertainment environment when making a priority request, these patrons resident in a facility associated with the entertainment environment when making the priority request, and these patrons located at the entertainment environment when making the priority request.

4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests ~~are permitting to selected patrons~~, the multiple priority requests being for different attractions in the entertainment environment.

5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein a selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests ~~are permitting to selected patrons~~, the multiple priority requests being for different attractions in the entertainment environment.

6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein a selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests ~~are permitting to selected patrons~~, the multiple priority requests being for different attractions in the entertainment environment.

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a first selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests ~~are permitting to selected patrons~~, the multiple priority requests being for patrons from a second selection of patrons, ~~different patrons in a selected group~~ the first selection of patrons and the second selection of patrons being in at least one of the hierarchy levels of the hierarchy of patrons.

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein a first selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests ~~are permitting to selected patrons~~, the multiple priority requests being for patrons from a second selection of patrons, ~~different patrons in a selected group~~ the first selection of patrons and the second selection of patrons being at in least one of the hierarchy levels of the hierarchy of patrons.

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein a first selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests ~~are permitting to selected patrons~~, the multiple priority requests being for patrons of a second selection of patrons, ~~different patrons in a~~

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~~selected group the first selection of patrons and the second selection of patrons being in at least one of the hierarchy levels of the hierarchy of patrons.~~

10. (currently amended) A system of managing the loading ~~by of~~ patrons ~~ef to multiple an~~ attractions in an entertainment environment wherein ~~different patrons are permitted access to the attraction on at least two bases, firstly the first being a first-in first-out basis, and secondly the second being on a priority basis, established by a prior allocation of a space to time of entry into said the attraction, the system~~ comprising:

a. a hierarchy ~~structure for of~~ patrons, the hierarchy developed using the priority basis;

b. ~~the structure providing access for different patrons in the hierarchy to a first attraction;~~

be. ~~a computing device to receiver for regulate the number of patrons allowed to enter the attraction, the computing device managing a priority request for an allocation of a space on the first time of entry into said attraction, the computing device~~ including:

i. ~~an input device, the input device for receiving a signal from a remote location central computer for regulating the load of the first attraction;~~

ii. ~~an allocation table, the allocation table for allocating available return times in relation to a hierarchy level of a patron in the hierarchy; and,~~

iii. ~~an output device, the output device transmitting to the remote location a receiver for receiving of a response remotely about available return times for to the first attraction; and~~

ivc. ~~a selection device at the remote location, the selection device for permitting the patrons to effect a choice of a selected a return time from the available return times; and~~

d. ~~means to provide the patrons in the hierarchy access to the first attraction, wherein the means to provide the patron access to the attraction provides priority access to the patron having a return time, and wherein the means to provide the patron access to the attraction provides first-in first-out access to any patron not having an allocated return time.~~

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11. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 10, including wherein a selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests, the multiple requests being for different attractions in the entertainment environment,~~a receiver for multiple priority requests to selected patrons, the multiple requests being for different attractions in the environment.~~

12. (currently amended) A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein a first selection of patrons is permitted to make multiple priority requests, the multiple priority requests being for patrons from a second selection of patrons, the first selection of patrons and the second selection of patrons being at in least one of the hierarchy levels,~~including a receiver for multiple priority requests to selected patrons, the multiple requests being for different patrons in a selected group being at least one of the levels of the hierarchy of patrons.~~

13. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the return time priority is redeemed through an selected essentially-automatic procedure, such~~wherein the automatic procedure includes any one of a being the reading of one of a RF radio frequency identification, allocated to the patron, a reading of a magnetic code, allocated to the patron, or a reading of a barcode allocated to the patron.~~

14. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the return time priority is redeemed at a time of entry into the entertainment environment or at the time of entry into the attraction in the entertainment environment.

15. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said allocated return time may or may not be redeemed by said patron, and including a computing process to determine the further comprising the steps of determining mix ratio of numbers of accesses granted to the priority access and the number of non-unredeemed return times,~~priority access to the number of allocated times, and feeding back redemptions of return times, the priority accesses such that near real time updates of return time availability for further granting of accesses may be computed.~~

16. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of including the ability to permitting at least one of the exchange or return of previously assigned priority access,~~the return time to the patron having the return time, and whereby such exchange~~

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~~permits for~~ updating the computation of ~~athe~~ load number of patrons allowed to enter the attraction based on the at least one exchange or return of the return time.

17. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of factoring wherein a nonuse of a unredeemed return times priority assignment is factored into a computation of the number of patrons allowed to enter the attraction loading.

18. (new) A method of managing the loading of patrons to an attraction in an entertainment environment wherein patrons are permitted access to the attraction on at least two bases, the first being a first-in first-out basis, and the second being a priority basis established by a prior allocation of a time of entry into said attraction, comprising:

- a. developing a hierarchy of patrons using the priority basis;
- b. permitting a priority request for an allocation of a time of entry into said attraction including the steps of:
 - i. receiving an input from a remote location, the input being communicated to a central computer, the central computer regulating a number of patrons allowed to enter the attraction;
 - ii. allocating a return time in relation to a hierarchy level of a patron in the hierarchy; and,
 - iii. permitting the patron to remotely receive a response that includes the return time for the attraction;
- and,
- c. employing an operation to provide the patron access to the attraction, the operation providing priority access to the patron having said return time, the operation providing first-in first-out access to any patron not having an allocated return time.

19. (new) A system of managing the loading of patrons to an attraction in an entertainment environment wherein patrons are permitted access to the attraction on at least two bases, the first being a first-in first-out basis, and the second being a priority basis, established by a prior allocation of a time of entry into said attraction, the system comprising:

- a. a hierarchy of patrons, the hierarchy developed using the priority basis;

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b. a computing device to regulate a number of patrons allowed to enter the attraction, the computing device managing a priority request for an allocation of a time of entry into said attraction, the computing device including:

i. an input device, the input device receiving a signal from a remote location;

ii. an allocation table, the allocation table allocating a return time in relation to a hierarchy level of a patron; and,

iii. an output device, the output device transmitting the return time to the remote location; and,

c. means to provide the patron access to the attraction based on the return time, wherein the means to provide the patron access to the attraction provides priority access to the patron having said return time, and wherein means to provide the patron access to the attraction provides first-in first-out access to any patron not having an allocated return time.